Lafayette Historical Society
P.O. Box 133
Lafayette, CA 94549

Bulletin, Vol. XI, No. 3 April 1985

President: Ray Peters Newsletter Editor: Nancy Midwood

FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

Just because it's old, doesn't mean it isn't good. (Doesn't mean it is good, either.)

If it's old, it might be an antique. No one really seems to know just what an antique is. However, everyone does seem to agree that it must be old in order to enjoy that classification. No one agrees how old.

If there are some chips and dents, no matter. Chips and dents add character.

What is the difference between an antique and junk? Eye of the beholder, probably. Some say there is only junk.

It does appear, however, that any antique must survive a period of junkery before it attains that ethereal status of being considered an "antique."

RAY PETERS

Time, then, is the magic ingredient that turns junk into an antique. Hold onto all your stuff. Kick your furniture around a little to add some character. A burn mark or two won't hurt. Drive a nail into your table now and then.

Thanks to all of you for your cooperation and enthusiasm through the years. It's been great fun, and perhaps we've managed to preserve a little bit of the "old" Lafayette.

Ray Peters
President (not quite antique)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The terms of four of the Directors of the Society expire this year. James Craig, Shirley Thomson and Betsy Willcuts have agreed to renomination. The fourth nominee is Elizabeth Johnson. The Society thanks retiring Director Andrew Young for sharing his time and talents so generously with us during his term.

Newly elected directors will serve three years, along with Richard Johnson, Sandy Kimball and Belinda Quintana, who have one more year to serve, and with Ray Peters, Oliver Hamlin, Irene Van Overveen and Ruth Dyer, who have two more years of service.

In accordance with the Bylaws, the Nominating Committee submits the following nominations for election at the Annual Meeting of the Society on May 14, 1984, for a three-year term ending in 1988: James Craig, Elizabeth Johnson, Shirley Thomson and Betsy Willcuts.

The new Board will elect from its members the officers for the new year.

DO YOU HAVE AN EXTRA ROOM?

The Society has desperate need for storage of some of its archives. A small bedroom would do nicely.

It should have some heat in the winter, in order to protect the articles from moisture damage. It should have room for some table space, in order to allow for sorting and indexing. Members of the Archives Committee will need to come and go, on occasion. The room should be secure.

You may be able to obtain a tax write-off for a portion of your utility bills, etc., for such a donation as this. (Check with your tax man.)

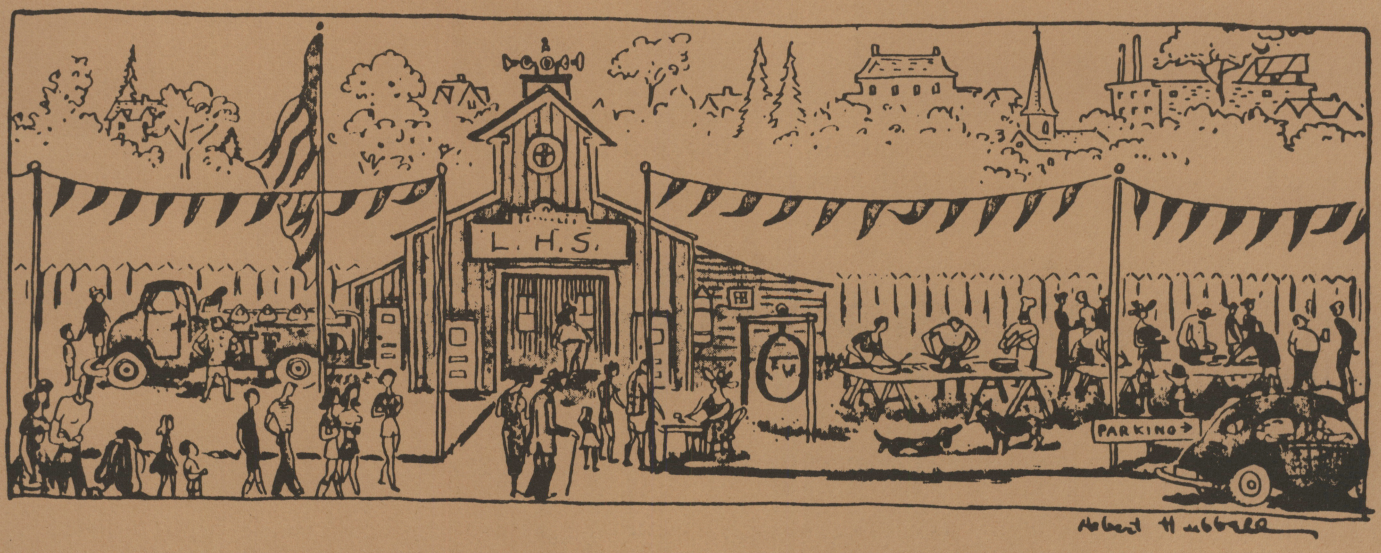
If you have some space you don't need, and/or if you would like to help with the archives, please call 284-7799.

WALKING TOURS

Conducting walking tours of the historical landmarks of Lafayette, and telling the history of our town to residents (both young and old) and to visitors, is an important service provided by the Society.

We need people to guide tours. If you are interested, training will be provided.

For more information, contact Betsy Willcuts (283-0706).

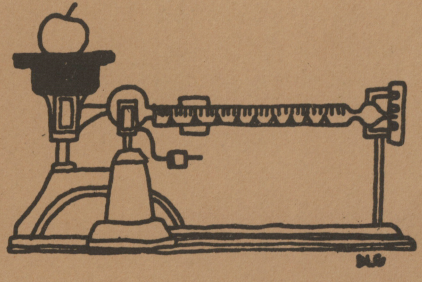


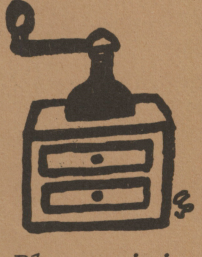
ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK
Tuesday, May 14, 1985

The Society's Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14. As in prior years, it will be held at the Veterans Building (lower floor).

A no-host bar will be open from 6 to 7 p.m. Then we'll have a potluck dinner, which is under the direction of Andrew Young and a group of volunteers. Following the meal we'll take a few minutes to elect four directors to replace those whose terms expire this year, and to determine the winner of the raffle. Then it will be time for the program featuring Ken Mullen.

Mr. Mullen's hobby has for some years been the collection and refurbishing of "action antiques." This term refers to collectors items which are functional, or operable, like a typewriter, a cash register, etc. Many of the things which Mr. Mullen has collected and restored are pictured in their original state in the 1896 Sears Roebuck catalog which was a best-selling reprint a dozen years ago. At the annual dinner he will show primarily household items.



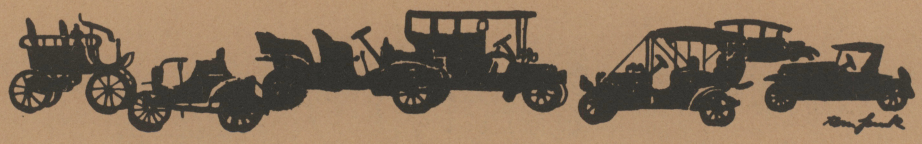


It may be that some of our members also have operable antique household relics which they'd like to display on May 14. If they are hand-held, bring them along. A table will be set aside for this purpose. If the function of the article isn't obvious, please print the explanation on a card. If you have questions, call Andy at 933-2742.

Please join us for this popular event. Guests are welcome. Bring your friends to familiarize them with the Society. Just bring along a casserole or salad to serve eight. Board members and committee chairmen will bring the desserts. Complimentary coffee and wine are provided. We look forward to the pleasure of your company on May 14 at 6 o'clock!

FIRE ENGINE STORAGE NEEDED

The fire engine visited area schools and participated in the Lafayette Concours during the year. George Wasson is exploring new possibilities for protected parking and display for "Old Betsy."



ADOBE HOUSE TOUR GREAT SUCCESS

According to President Ray Peters, the fall adobe house tour was a great success in terms of numbers attending, thanks to the kindness of the participating adobe owners and the organizational efforts of planning Chair Dick Johnson.

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS

Oliver Hamlin recently conducted interviews of Jack Marchant and Russell Bruzzoni. Tapes and typed transcripts are ready for filing at the Lafayette library.

Readers who know of possible subjects for interview are asked to call Oliver at 283-6504.

ARCHIVES

Lafayette library has color coded the Society's files for easier reference. Capital Federal Savings and Loan has loaned their duplicating equipment so that Betsy Willcuts could make copies of the Society's photographs and their sources, including the revent valuable collection donated by Alice McNeil Russi.

TELEPHONE OPERATORS

We have a job for those that would like to participate more actively in the Society but seem to have a hard time fitting in the participation.

The job is to call Society members to remind them of forthcoming events. It means only a few calls, a few times a year. Surely, you can fit that in!

We need either a few people to make a lot of calls or a lot of people to make a few calls. If you'd like to help, please call 284-7799.

YOUR NEWSLETTER

If you have suggestions, information of local historical interest, or if you have an article you would like to share with the members of the Society, please let us know. We welcome your participation.

Please send your material to:

Lafayette Historical Society
P. O. Box 133
Lafayette, CA 94549

MEMBERSHIP GROWING

Chair Dick Johnson reports membership has risen to 170. Owners of the adobe homes on the fall tour have been made courtesy members.

The Society needs 200 members in order to qualify for a non-profit mailing status. The annual potluck is a great way for us to introduce a friend to the Society's program, purpose and people. So, bring a guest and help us to GROW!

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 6 P.M.

ANNUAL MEETING
AND POTLUCK DINNER

BRING A CASSEROLE OR SALAD FOR EIGHT

WINDOW PERSONS

If you'd like to try your hand at making window displays, we have just the job for you. We need help in preparing historical projects in the window at Conti Camera Shop. The display is changed only every few months. This is our only opportunity to communicate our historical wares.

Joan Merryman and Alice Breckling have been our exhibitionists of late, but they have asked to be retired. The series of delightfully creative historical displays they arranged was highlighted by Sandy Kimball in an article that appeared in the *Contra Costa Sun* recently.

If you have a bent for decorating or would like to develop one, please call 284-7799.

PETERS NAMED LEADER OF THE MONTH

Ray Peters was named Business Leader of the Month in March by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. Achievements cited included Ray's presidency of the Lafayette Historical Society, his involvement in setting up Concours de Elegance events and in redesigning portions of the east end of Mt. Diablo Boulevard. To Ray, one of his greatest "personal" design projects has been the restoration of his home on Martino Road which is Lafayette's oldest house.

ANDREW YOUNG ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CONTRA COSTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Andrew Young, author of *The Improvers of Lafayette*, is also active on the Tao House Study Committee and the Contra Costa and San Ramon Planning Commissions. As the first director of CCHS's History Center, his main focus is on preparing grants to preserve the priceless documents in the recently acquired Stein Collection.

EARLY PHOTOGRAPHY ON DISPLAY

Professional photographer Bil Plummer has arranged an historical display for the Society which continues in the window at Conti Camera throughout April. "Using optics and chemistry to capture and preserve fragile slices of history" is the theme of this fascinating exhibit which features old cameras, plates, lenses and chemicals as well as old family portraits and albums.

LHS PUBLICATIONS

LaFayette - A Pictorial History, at $6, and *The Improvers of Lafayette*, at $9.95, provide income for the Society and make thoughtful gifts. Both are available courtesy of Lafayette Book Store, Conti Camera and the Chamber of Commerce.

New copies of the Society's "Historical Guide" have recently been printed and are now available at city offices, the Chamber of Commerce and the library.

Chair Joan Merryman is asking for a volunteer to take on the responsibility of recording sales and storing books and brochures. Please let her know at 283-0659 if you are able to take on this important Society activity.

IT'S TIME FOR DUES

Please complete . Tear off . Mail with dues

Name _____ _____ _____

(first) (spouse) (last)

Address _____

Phone _____ Date _____

Membership classification and annual dues (circle one):	Student	Family	Business	Life
	$2.50	$5	$50	$100

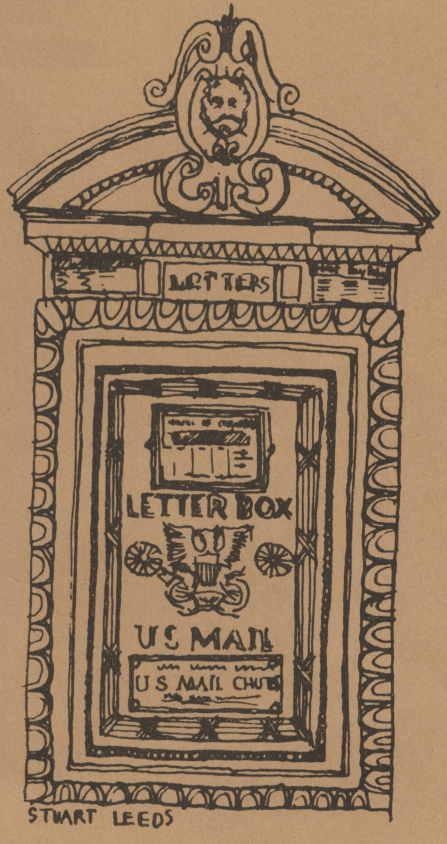
SPECIAL INTERESTS

Please check if you can help.

_____ Historic preservation
_____ Landmarks
_____ Community observer
_____ Oral history
_____ Typing
_____ Field trips
_____ Photographs
_____ Research
_____ Newspaper clippings
_____ Phoning
_____ Other (describe)

_____

_____



Name, address and phone number of friends interested in joining:

_____

_____

_____

Mail to:

LAFAYETTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. Box 133
Lafayette, CA 94549

First Class Mail

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Tuesday, May 14 . Veterans Hall . LHS Dinner and Annual Meeting